

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 25-29 are pending. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments. For instance, claim 21 has been amended to define the claimed subject matter as a "matrix". The matrix has been positively recited as being suitable for replacement as an insert in a mould cavity of a compression-moulding, embossing or injection-moulding machine. Also, the preamble of dependent claims 25-29 has been changed to a "matrix". According, no new matter has been added.

Applicants submit that the present amendment places the claimed subject matter within the scope of the constructively elected subject matter. As such, the Examiner is requested to provide action on the merits.

The Examiner's outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and § 102(b) are traversed for the same reasons as outlined in the February 6, 2004 amendment. The remarks of the February 6, 2004 amendment are hereby incorporated by reference.

In view of the present claims, as well as the previously submitted remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.


Serial No.: 10/070,912

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact Craig A. McRobbie, Registration No. 42,874 at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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